are sealed together so that an inner space is formed between them. Then an aging process in which a required discharge voltage is applied to the discharge electrodes is performed. The aging process includes an introducing process in which a discharge gas with a partial steam pressure of 15 Torr or less is newly introduced into the inner space from the outside and an evacuating process, in which discharge gas is evacuated from the inner space. By performing the introducing process together with the evacuating process, discharge gas can be circulated continuously or intermittently through the inner space, while a required discharge voltage is applied to the discharge electrodes, thereby enabling discharge to be produced.

Furthermore, a PDP manufacturing process may be performed in the following way. First, a front plate and a back plate, on at least one of which discharge electrodes have been arranged and on at least one of whose inner surfaces a phosphor layer has been formed are sealed together so that an inner space is formed between them. Then an aging process in which a required discharge voltage is applied to the discharge electrodes is performed. The aging process includes an introducing process in which a discharge gas with a partial steam pressure of 15 Torr or less is newly introduced into the inner space from the outside and an evacuating process, in which discharge gas is evacuated from the inner space. The discharge generated when a required discharge voltage is applied to the discharge electrodes is divided into a plurality of discharge periods. By performing the introducing and evacuating processes in the intervals between the discharge periods, discharge gas can be circulated through the inner space.

Here, the introducing process introduces gas via a first air vent formed in the panel, and the evacuating process evacuates gas via a second air vent formed in the panel.

Please delete the second and third paragraphs on page 5.

Please replace the fourth paragraph on page 5 with the following re-written paragraph:

Consequently, the PDP subject to the aging process has the following structure. A plurality of discharge spaces are formed by arranging a plurality of partitions to divide up the inner space between the front plate and the back plate, and a sealing glass layer for sealing the panel is included between the perimeters of the front plate and the back plate. Then a first space connected to the discharge spaces formed by the plurality of partitions is formed between first ends of the plurality of partitions and the sealing glass layer, and a second space connected to the discharge spaces is formed between second ends of the plurality of partitions and the sealing glass layer.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 8 with the following re-written paragraph:

In this kind of structure, discharge gas mainly flows through a plurality of gas passages leading from the first to the second space. This prevents deterioration in the phosphors during the aging process.

Please delete the fourth paragraph on page 8.

Please replace the fifth paragraph on page 8 with the following re-written paragraph:

The partial pressure of steam contained in the discharge gas introduced into the inner space should preferably be 10 torr or less, 5 torr or less, 1 torr or less or even 0.1 torr or less.

Please replace the sixth paragraph on page 8.

Please replace the first paragraph on page 9 with the following re-written paragraph:

In order to achieve the above object, a PDP manufacturing process is further performed in the following way. First, a front plate and a back plate, on at least one of which discharge electrodes have been arranged and on at least one of whose inner surfaces a phosphor layer has been formed are sealed together so that an inner space is formed between them. Then a heating process for heating phosphors in the phosphor layer is performed after the aging process has been completed. This heating process enables the characteristics of the phosphors to be restored.